

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for preserving plant tissue, said
2 method comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue; and
4 (b) saturating said plant tissue with a saturation mix, said saturation
5 mix imparting extreme flexibility and little or no chemical
6 cross-linking in the resulting saturated plant tissue.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, said method further comprising
2 the step of:

- 3 (a) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, said step of
2 obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue comprising:

- 3 (a) obtaining a fresh-cut plant tissue;
4 (b) forming said fresh-cut plant tissue; and
5 (c) dehydrating said fresh-cut plant tissue.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said step of
2 dehydrating said fresh cut plant tissue comprises at least one method selected from the
3 group consisting of:

- 4 (a) burying dehydrating method;
5 (b) burying and sealing dehydrating method;
6 (c) hang-drying dehydrating method;
7 (d) microwaving dehydrating method;
8 (e) chemical dehydrating method; and
9 (f) freeze-drying dehydrating method.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~claim-4~~, further
2 comprising a cleaning step comprising at least one step selected from the group
3 consisting of:

- 4 (a) vibrating said plant tissue to remove said dehydrating material;
5 (b) air-brushing said plant tissue to remove said dehydrating material;
6 and
7 (c) brushing said plant tissue to remove said dehydrating material.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~claim-2~~, said step of
2 saturating said plant tissue with said saturation mix further comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) draining said saturation mix from said saturated plant tissue; and
4 (b) drying said saturated plant tissue.


1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~claim-6~~, said step of
2 coating said plant tissue further comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue;
4 (b) draining said coating mix from said coated plant tissue; and
5 (c) drying said coated plant tissue.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 ~~claim 7~~, wherein said
2 ~~saturation mix and said coating mix are~~ coating mix is composed of at least one mix
3 selected from the group consisting of:

- 4 (a) solution composed of derivatives of natural rubber;
5 (b) natural rubber solution;
6 (c) any solution imparting a ~~rubber-like~~ rubber-like flexibility; and
7 (d) a silicone styrene elastomer resin mix.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 19 ~~claim 20~~, wherein
2 said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix is selected from the group consisting of:

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- 3 (a) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene;
4 (b) block copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene;
5 (c) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene mixed with a
6 rubber vulcanizing agent;
7 (d) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene mixed with an
8 antioxidant;
9 (e) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene mixed with a UV
10 stabilizer;
11 (f) PLASTI DIP®;
12 (g) PLASTI DIP® UV STABLE; and
13 (h) any combination of copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene
14 and a rubber vulcanizing agent and an antioxidant and a UV
15 stabilizer and PLASTI DIP® and PLASTI DIP® UV STABLE.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 19 ~~claim 9~~, further
2 comprising a step of adding said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix to a solvent, said
3 solvent selected from the group consisting of:

- 4 (a) toluene;
- 5 (b) xylene;
- 6 (c) naphtha;
- 7 (d) acetone; and
- 8 (e) various combinations of elements of (a)-(d).

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

- 2 (a) applying a polishing mix to said coated plant tissue.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, said step of applying a
2 polishing mix to said coated plant tissue further comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) draining said polished plant tissue; and
4 (b) drying said polished plant tissue.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 ~~claim 12~~, wherein
2 said polishing mix is composed of at least one polishing mix selected from the group
3 consisting of:

- 4 (a) a silicone styrene elastomer resin mix; and
- 5 (b) "F-799" PLASTI-DIP®.

1 Claim 14 (original): A method for preserving plant tissue, said method
2 comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) obtaining a fresh-cut plant tissue;
- 4 (b) forming said fresh-cut plant tissue;
- 5 (c) dehydrating said formed plant tissue;
- 6 (d) cleaning said dehydrated plant tissue;
- 7 (e) saturating said cleaned plant tissue with a saturating mix;
- 8 (f) coating said saturated plant tissue with a coating mix; and
- 9 (g) polishing said coated plant tissue with a polishing mix.

1 Claim 15 (withdrawn): A preserved plant tissue, said preserved plant
2 tissue comprising:

- 3 (a) a dehydrated plant tissue;
4 (b) a means for saturating;
5 (c) said plant tissue being subjected to said means for saturating to
6 form a saturated plant tissue having extreme flexibility;
7 (d) a means for coating; and
8 (e) said saturated plant tissue being subjected to said means for
9 coating to form a coated plant tissue.

1 Claim 16 (withdrawn): The ~~dehydrated~~ preserved plant tissue of claim 15,
2 said dehydrated plant tissue comprising:

- 3 (a) a fresh-cut plant tissue;
4 (b) a means for forming said fresh-cut plant tissue;
5 (c) said fresh-cut plant tissue being subjected to said means for
6 forming to form a formed plant tissue;
7 (d) a means for dehydrating said formed plant tissue;
8 (e) said formed plant tissue being subjected to said means for
9 dehydrating to form a dehydrated plant tissue;
10 (f) a means for cleaning said dehydrated plant tissue; and
11 (g) said dehydrated plant tissue being subjected to said means for
12 cleaning to form a cleaned plant tissue.

1 Claim 17 (withdrawn): The ~~coated~~ preserved plant tissue of claim 15,
2 wherein said coated plant tissue is further subject to:

- 3 (a) a means for polishing said plant tissue; and
4 (b) said plant tissue being subjected to said polishing means to form a
5 polished plant tissue.

1 Claim 18 (withdrawn): A preserved plant tissue, said preserved plant
2 tissue comprising:

- 3 (a) a fresh-cut plant tissue;
4 (b) a means for forming said fresh-cut plant tissue;
5 (c) said fresh-cut plant tissue being subjected to said means for
6 forming to form a formed plant tissue;
7 (d) a means for dehydrating said formed plant tissue;
8 (e) said fresh plant tissue being subjected to said means for
9 dehydrating to form a dehydrated plant tissue;
10 (f) a means for cleaning;
11 (g) said dehydrated plant tissue being subjected to said means for
12 cleaning to form a cleaned plant tissue;
13 (h) a means for saturating;
14 (i) said cleaned plant tissue being subjected to said means for
15 saturating to form a saturated plant tissue having extreme flexibility;
16 (j) a means for coating;
17 (k) said saturated plant tissue being subjected to said coating means
18 to form a coated plant tissue;
19 (l) a means for polishing; and
20 (m) said coated plant tissue being subjected to said means for polishing
21 to form a polished plant tissue.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~claim 8~~, wherein
2 said saturation mix is composed of a silicone styrene elastomer resin mix.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 19 wherein said
2 silicone styrene elastomer resin mix comprises one or more copolymers of
3 dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for preserving plant tissue,
2 said method comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue;
4 (b) saturating said plant tissue with a saturation mix;
5 (c) said saturation mix being composed of a silicone styrene elastomer
6 resin mix; and
7 (d) said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix comprises one or more
8 copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene.

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, said step of
2 saturating said plant tissue with said saturation mix further comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) draining said saturation mix from said saturated plant tissue; and
4 (b) drying said saturated plant tissue.

5 Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, further
6 comprising the step of applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue, said step of
7 applying a coating mix further comprising the steps of:

- 8 (a) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue;
9 (b) draining said coating mix from said coated plant tissue; and
10 (c) drying said coated plant tissue.

1 Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for preserving plant tissue,
2 said method comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue;
4 (b) saturating said plant tissue with a saturation mix, said saturation
5 mix being composed of a silicone styrene elastomer resin mix; and
6 (c) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue.
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